

3-19-2012

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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

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March 19, 2012

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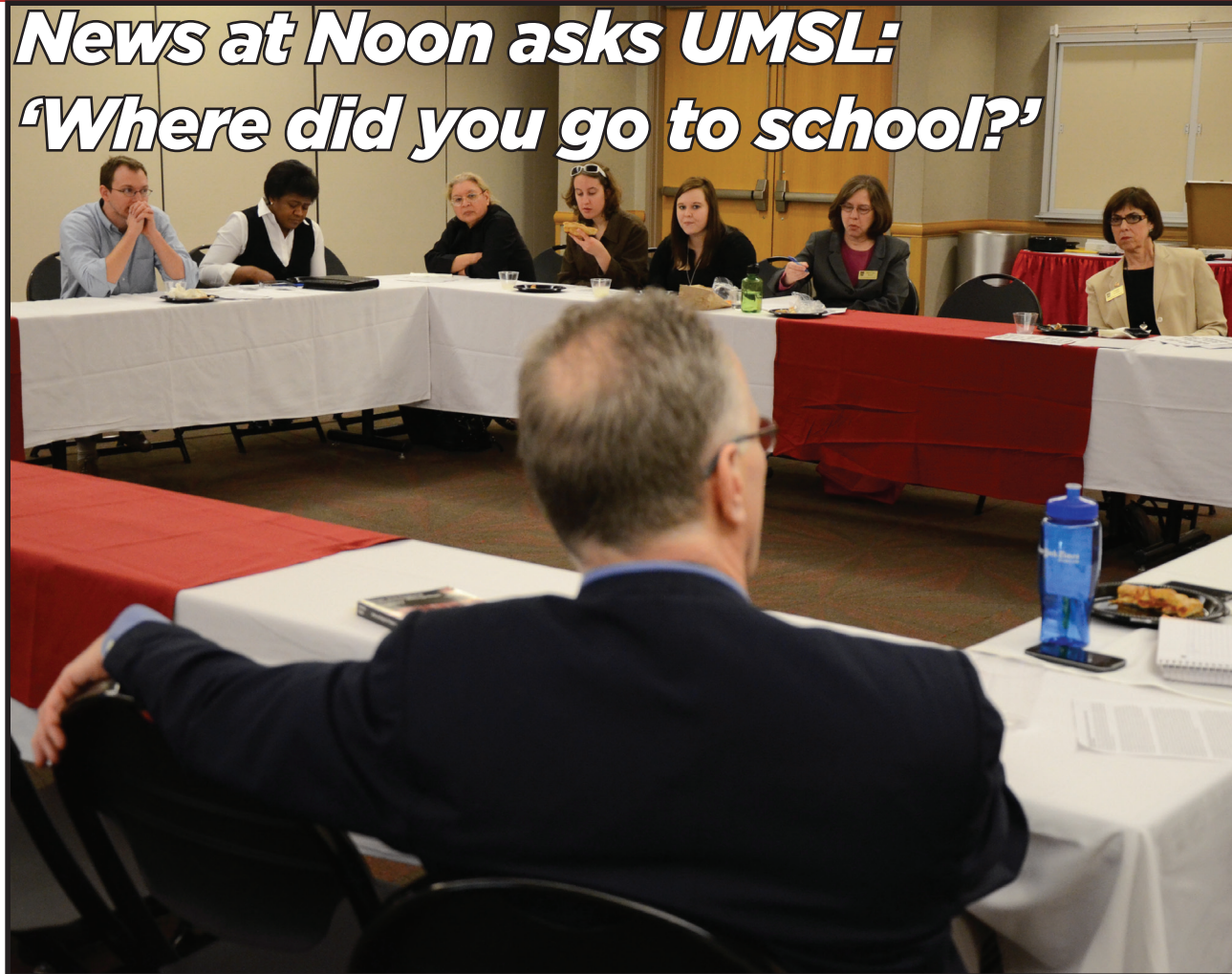
MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor-in-Chief

“News @ Noon” on March 12, 2012 brought students and faculty together to discuss St. Louis’ obsession with one question: “Where did you go to school?” This question refers specifically to high school. After discussing this phenomenon, attendees went on to discuss the societal causes of this St. Louisan attitude toward high schools.

Outsiders may find this an odd occurrence, but it is true that a typical question asked by people from St. Louis is “where did you go to school?” The reason for this is quite simple, according to Todd Swanstrom.

“Why do people ask this question? Asking this can help people determine what your socio-economic background is. It gives you an idea of their upbringing, it identifies you as of part of a social, economic and possibly even religious background. I went to high school at St. Paul Central in Minnesota many years ago. You couldn’t identify anybody by that school. When I first came to St. Louis, I was shocked that there was so much debate about where to send kids to high school. For me, you just went to the high school near where you grew up. But in St. Louis, there is a huge difference in the public schools, even right next door to each other. We are the second-most

News at Noon asks UMSL: ‘Where did you go to school?’



Todd Swanstrom, Professor of Political Science, leads a discussion about high schools in the Saint Louis area.

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

fragmented area in the country concerning public school districts,” Todd Swanstrom, professor of political science, UMSL, said.

Other students and faculty echoed Swanstrom’s views within moments. A slide showcasing the difference between the percentage of students receiving lunch benefits in a stereotypically “poor” school district compared to a “rich” one helped to solidify these claims. The

percentage of students on free and reduced lunch was exponentially higher in the “poor” districts than in the “rich” ones. In addition, test scores and college attendance for students from richer districts were consistently higher than those of their poor peers.

The conversation then took a slight turn. Rather than questioning why we ask about the school to which somebody went, those present began to

wonder why poor families do not simply send their students to better schools.

The general consensus was that the process of getting into a better school is difficult for most poor families. A family incapable of providing for their regular daily needs is not likely to have the resources necessary to pay for extras like tuition at a nicer school. Peggy Cohen had further insight into this issue.

“Consider the concept

of locus and control. Out of attribution theory, if you look at how people contribute their successes and failures, successes are contributed to things they can control. Failure is contributed to things beyond our control, like ability, whereas effort, something we can control, would be the contributing factor for success. We hear all the time that we have to try harder, but nobody says how to do so. How do we do that? How

do we write better, succeed more? I’m sure this applies to kids, too, when they wonder how to break a cycle of poverty their family may be in. It can be a trap,” Peggy Cohen, director, Center for Teaching and Learning, said.

One of the last questions concerned why those who are well off do not make greater efforts to lift up their fellow man. After all, if one family has plentiful resources and this country wishes to see an overall improvement, it makes sense that people might cooperate for overall progression. “Mankind is not purely individualistic. We are capable of working together. Experiments have shown us this,” Swanstrom said.

“I feel like there is a ‘blame the victim’ mentality. Why didn’t you do this, try harder, etc.? There seems to be a notion with wealthy people of ‘why should I have to sacrifice when I worked hard to get here?’ You may have worked to get there, but maybe you only had to go one base to get a home run, whereas other people have to go the whole way around to get that success,” Carl Gunther, Community Village Network of Metro St. Louis, said.

There will be one more “News @ Noon” event in April for anybody interested in attending. Keep your eyes peeled for the next calendar event.

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The Current

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BUSINESS

Business Manager.....John Wallace
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Advisor.....Charlotte Petty

CONTACT US

Address 388 MSC, 1 University Blvd
Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400
Newsroom 314-516-5174
Business/Advertising 314-516-5316
Fax 314-516-6811
E-mail (Editor-in-Chief) thecurrenteic@umsl.edu
E-mail (Advertising) thecurrentads@umsl.edu
E-mail (Employment Inquiries) thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
E-mail (Tips / What's Current) thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
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The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. *The Current* edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

AFFILIATIONS



What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

Tuesday, March 20

Political Science Academy lecture

Starts at 7:30 p.m. Located at 733 Elkington, Olivette, MO and open to UMSL. Join us for lively conversation and civic engagement over a topic of great local interest that has been very much in the news lately -- the political football that is the Rams and the stadium lease issue. We will look at the history of how St. Louis obtained an NFL franchise as well as speculate about the likelihood of keeping the team here in the future.
For more information, contact Adis Alagic at adisalagic@mail.umsl.edu.

Wednesday, March 21

Buliding rapport with professors: effective communication

From 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Located in 225 MSC and open to all.
Are you sabotaging relationships with your professors? Do you fully participate in the classroom? Effective communication skills and participation are both critical in college. Understanding faculty expectations is key to your success, and intentional participation will yield great rewards. Learn how to facilitate effective communication with your professors in a variety of situations and learn about the benefits of classroom participation.
For more information, contact Antionette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

Monday, March 26

Yellowstone wolves: restoration, science, and management

From 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Located at Belleville East High School (Belleville, IL) and open to all.
Wolves are the top carnivore in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Jim shares the wolves behavioral stories, ecological relationships and management alternatives, along with his personal encounters, providing an intimate look at these fascinating creatures. Wolf management has changed over the years, and the recent delisting has brought new challenges. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about these magnificent carnivores.
For more information, contact Jim Jordan at 314-516-7250.

Thursday, March 22

Do's and don'ts for nonprofits - The BBB's perspective

From 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located in 126 JC Penney Conference Center and open to all.
Do you want to know how to run or be part of a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization? Come learn about good governance and oversight from the Better Business Bureau. Cost to attend is \$10.
For more information, contact Dan Sise at 314-516-6378.

Friday, March 23

Financing your business

From 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Located in JC Penney Center's Oak Room and open to all.
Learn about various grant and loan programs, the commercial lending process and why it is so important to establish a banking relationship. This workshop will also provide information on Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs and how to apply for them. Fee: \$59
For more information, contact Erica Candela at 314-516-5908.

Crimeline

March 5, 2012 -6:30pm
Report # 12-89 - Theft - Lot KK. An UMSL student reported that between 3:30 p.m. on March 3, 2012 and 6:00 p.m. on March 5, 2012 several items were stolen from an unlocked vehicle. Value \$970.00. Disposition: Report taken.
March 7, 2012 - 7:00pm
Report # 12-97 - Assault - Mark Twain Gym. UMSL police took a delayed report of an assault that occurred following a

high school basketball game on February 29, 2012 at the Mark Twain Gym. Disposition: Investigation continuing.
March 8, 2012 - 8:20am
Report # 12-98 - Burglary / Property Damage - Clark Hall. A door to a storage room was pried open between 12:30pm on March 7, 2012 and 8:00 a.m. March 8, 2012. Nothing taken. Disposition: Investigation continuing.
March 8, 2012 - 2:20pm
Report # 12-100 - Assault -

Social Science Building. An UMSL student reported that they were assaulted by an UMSL professor. Disposition: Investigation continuing.
March 12, 2012 - 10:00pm
Report # 12-109 - Auto Accident - West Drive (South Campus). One vehicle struck a light pole. An UMSL student was transported to the hospital for medical treatment. Disposition: Investigation continuing.
March 15, 2012 - 4:58pm

Report # 12-117 - Peace Disurbance - Millennium Student Center. An UMSL student reported being harassed by a non-student regarding voting for the new rec. center. The non-student was identified and escorted from campus. Disposition: Pending.
For further details, visit <http://safety.umsl.edu/police/campus-crime-info/daily-log.html>, or check out UMSL Campus Police on Facebook and Twitter.

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News

Men can relax: Y chromosome not disappearing after all

CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

After the human genome was first sequenced, the next big announcement was that the Y chromosome seemed to be shrinking. The idea that the chromosome that determines maleness might be disappearing, leaving women on their own in reproduction, caused some concern in the news media. Scientists themselves, however, were never very concerned that the Y would disappear, as it seemed too useful.

Regardless, a new study puts any concerns to rest.

Published February 22 online in the scientific journal *Nature*, it provides evidence that the Y chromosome's shrinkage is mostly in the past.

The lead authors on this study, Jennifer F. Hughes and David C. Page, are with the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Among its other authors are several researchers with Washington University. Co-authors Tina Graves, Robert S. Fulton, Colin Kremitzki, Laura Courtney, Joelle Veizer, Holland

Kotkiewicz, Wesley C. Warren and Richard K. Wilson from the Genome Institute at Washington University's School of Medicine were part of an international consortium that sequenced the human genome and the Y chromosome.

To determine what happened to the Y chromosome and when, the new study compared the Y genetic sequences of humans, chimpanzees and an Old World monkey, the rhesus macaque, to determine how far back in time the decay of the Y occurred. The Genome Institute published a study in 2010, a comparison of the Y chromosomes of humans and chimpanzees, our closest ape relative.

The gene that confers maleness is found on the Y, along with other specifically male genes. Other chromosomes, called autosomes, exist in matched pairs. Each parent contributes one of the autosome pairs, which line up to exchange genetic material, increasing diversity. But the sex

chromosomes X and Y do not. Only the tips of the X and Y chromosomes can still exchange genetic material. Otherwise, genes on the Y chromosome stay on the Y chromosome.

The X and Y began as ordinary autosomes, but the Y has shed genes and shortened over the past 200–300 million years. The study reports that “the human MSY (male-specific region of Y chromosome) retains only three percent of the ancestral autosomes' genes owing to genetic decay.”

While the X has about 790 genes in the portion that does not exchange DNA, the Y has only 27, including some male-specific ones that migrated from other chromosomes. Only 19 genes on the Y remain from the original 1,000 or so that the two chromosomes once shared.

Portions of DNA flipped in the Y chromosome, so the sequences no longer lined up. After each flip, there was rapid gene loss which then tapered off.

The new study found that

most changes to the Y had happened early on. While the Old World monkey and the human lineages diverged about 25 million years ago, the last of the five major changes to the Y occurred about five million years before that. Few changes have occurred since, with only one gene lost since the rhesus and human Y chromosomes separated.

“The *Nature* article is a great example of research demonstrating how genes that are essential for the function of a species are conserved over time, while unnecessary genes become mutated or lost,” Dr. Wendy Olivas, associate professor of biology, said. “The shaping of the Y chromosome has been like carving a sculpture out of a block of stone. In the final sculpture, most of the stone has been removed, but the essential areas remain and are finely polished. Similar types of research are performed here in the UMSL Department of Biology to analyze the conservation of DNA genes

across many different species.”

This report brought out a bit of humor in some, like Dr. Charles Granger, professor of biology and science education, Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor, Departments of Biology and Teaching & Learning.

“The work of Jennifer Hughes and David Page at the White Institute has assured the human male of his humble but stable deficit condition. According to their findings, males will neither gain any genetic real estate nor lose any more. Thank goodness for the latter. There is no doubt that genetically we are the weaker sex. If we would lose any more Y chromosome genetic material, we would probably have to give up the vote. No wonder we have to beat drums and settle questions through arms just to maintain some semblance of masculinity. Copious amounts of beer also help, I hear,” Granger said.



The UNDERCURRENT

by Ismail Adiputra

“How do you plan on spending your Spring Break this year?”



“I’m working over the break. I will probably do something else, but I don’t know yet what I’ll be doing.”

Katie Gresham
Senior
Sociology



“I am going to volunteer at my church.”

Aaron Jones
Senior
English



“I will be doing volunteer work around St. Louis during the Spring Break through City Lights.”

Hiroaki Takaishi
Tutor
Foreign Languages and Literature

The Political Corner - Women's History Month Advocacy

Statehouse Sisters: inspiring for Women's History Month

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

On Monday, March 12, 2012, at the Millennium Student Center, the University of Missouri - Saint Louis hosted Statehouse Sisters in honor of women's history month. Statehouse Sisters is sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life in partnership with the Des Lee Collaborative vision, the Executive Leadership Consortium, the Gender Studies Program, the Office of Multicultural Relations, the Provost's Steering Committee on Civic Engagement, the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Student Life.

Many groups are involved and all have great expectations. "We do this program every year so that students, teachers, faculty, staff and community members can see women in positions of public life. We are hoping they will learn a little bit about the variety of roles that women hold in public life, a little bit about what prosecutors do and we hope people will be inspired. Maybe they will do it themselves," Dayna Stock, manager of Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, said.

Everyone was very excited for the presentation. "The Statehouse Sisters [event] this year is special. It is making history because the two top prosecutors are women from St. Louis and Jackson County, Missouri. That is special because

I know when I think of prosecutors I originally associate [the position] with men. So for women to be holding these top two positions is great. Nannette Baker is the Federal Magistrate; she will be moderating the event. They will be answering questions and talking about their roles in the real world of law and order," Na'Quasha Smith, intern for the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, said.

Three women led the presentation. Baker was appointed in 2010 and is serving an eight-year term on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. One of the panelists was Jennifer Joyce, St. Louis circuit attorney, who was elected in 2001 and comes from a political family. She is running for a fourth term, and if she completes it she will be the longest-serving circuit attorney in St. Louis history. The second panelist was Jean Peters-Baker, prosecutor, Jackson County. Peters-Baker was appointed in May 2011 after working her way up under Claire McCaskill as well as serving as State Representative for the 39th District in Kansas City and leading the Sue Shear Institute at the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

All three women claimed that their job was the best in the world and jokingly battled with each other.

They all realize the hardships that women face. Many have the stigma in their minds that the political world is strictly male. These women battle against that stereotype. "That is the way democracy is supposed to work. Sometimes you do not pick your timing, timing picks you. It is important to put up a fight," Peters-Baker said.

Peters-Baker added that in rural areas of Missouri, elections are still held for many positions, such as judge. Fewer women run for these positions in rural areas. But if they were to run, women would become more of a norm in the political spectrum. The three women also realize that there are people who are not ready to accept the concept of women in power. Women want to advance as far as possible, though. "I do not think it is possible to get very far without having someone be upset," Peters-Baker said.

There was a very diverse crowd at the Statehouse Sisters event, consisting of many lawyers, attorneys and students, both male and female. "The event was very informative. I know what is happening on this level of our state/country system regarding crime in our area," Katrina Stubbs, senior, psychology, said.

UMSL community prepares to assess cultural climate

HALI FLINTROP
News Editor

The University of Missouri -- St. Louis community will soon have the opportunity to express its feelings about the diversity and reception of diversity at UMSL. This opportunity will come from an email campus climate survey designed by a special representative committee of faculty and students as well as a professional sociologist to assess how well UMSL has met the needs of the campus community and what improvements should be made in the future.

"It's ... a survey about the extent to which the campus provides students, faculty and staff with a good environment, a good climate. It's kind of a com-

prehensive assessment of the community's beliefs about that question," Dean Robert Bliss, Pierre Laclède Honors College, campus climate survey committee member, said. The survey is designed to assess how the UMSL community feels about the university as it is now and will also elicit information from participants about what constitutes a great environment for UMSL.

Survey participants will not be asked to identify themselves, but the survey will inquire about certain information. "It first asks people to identify themselves reasonably closely without allowing anybody to find out who they are," Bliss said. Par-

ticipants will be asked to reveal their gender, gender preference, ethnicity, religious affiliation, whether they are faculty, staff or student and their level of seniority at the university.

The survey questions will ask participants to evaluate whether or not UMSL provides a good environment and whether or not they feel comfortable in the UMSL environment. The survey will also ask participants if they have had any negative experiences at UMSL and if those experiences related to who the participant is as defined by the previously acquired identifying information.

Continued on page 5.

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Changes in store from survey?

Continued from page 4.

Bliss said that the survey writers are interested in what level of diversity acceptance is necessary at UMSL. "As of course we think, should the university not treat you anonymously, treat you as an individual, of course, but fully accept you in your identity? Whoever it is you are, should you feel comfortable here?" he said.

Bliss said that through the survey results, the survey task force anticipates attaining a better level of understanding of areas that need improvement in the UMSL community's treatment of diversity. However, they also hope to hear that UMSL is doing well and has a good climate. "We might find out that we're really rather good at being

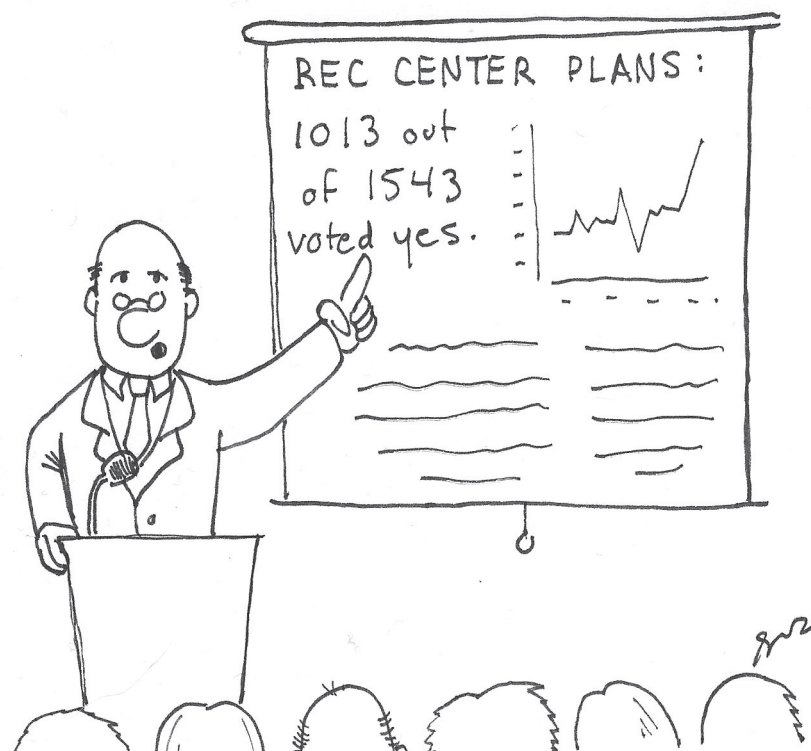
[a] welcoming, embracing, diverse community, which we need to be as a university. Any university needs that. We try to study the world as it is. And [America] is in fact an amazingly diverse country, one of the most diverse countries in the world, and its universities need to reflect that," Bliss said.

The changes that could be made as a result of the survey are undefined until the results are gathered. Using the results of the survey to make necessary changes to UMSL will be a combined effort between the survey task force, Ashlee Roberts, diversity coordinator, and the UMSL community as a whole.

There will be a notification of the survey which will eventually be distributed via campus email. Bliss said to look for the

survey in the near future. Incentives will be randomly awarded to some of the participants who complete and submit the questionnaire, but participating in the survey as a member of the UMSL community has merits of its own. "First of all, we hope that people would take it as an interesting [thing] to do. Being members of the university, it's something they should be interested in," Bliss said.

Many other American universities have used similar campus climate surveys to gauge diversity and acceptance on their campuses. The survey UMSL will be using is modeled after previously used surveys but was modified specifically for UMSL. Missouri's University of Science and Technology will also participate in a campus climate survey in the near future.



The recent "Check the Rec" campaign on campus concluded last week with a weeklong voting session. Voting took began on Monday, March 12 and ended on Thursday, March 15 at midnight. The

results have been tallied with a favorable response.

The Recreation and Wellness Center project will be presented to the UM-System Board of Curators in June. The project proposal will have to be approved

by the Curators to become definite. If approved, UMSL will proceed with the program development and construction phases to maintain the building opening timeline in the 2014 / 2015 academic school year.

Boyce Avenue works their charm on STL crowd in Pageant concert

ASHLEY ATKINS
Features Editor

Some say that greatness takes a lifetime to find, but for St. Louisans on March 12, it was discovered on the stage of the Pageant. It was on this night that YouTube sensation Boyce Avenue made their St. Louis debut to a nightclub crowded with some of their most loyal fans.

Stepping away from the comfort of a Chicago environment, the band decided to take a chance on St. Louis and St. Louis did not disappoint, drawing fans from as far as Kansas City.

The venue was completely packed from balcony to stage. Late arrivals spread out on both sides of the room. The crowd managed to have short conversations about what they were wearing and what they would do when the boys graced the stage. The real question was, what would they not do?

Preoccupied, the crowd did not notice when Jason Burrows made his way to his drum set. With his cue and a little fog, each member appeared on stage one by one. Fabian Manzano appeared stage-right and Daniel Manzano stage-left, both smiling at the crowd in anticipation. With cameras high in the air, everybody knew what was coming, or shall we say, who was missing. It did not take long for the lead vocalist Alejandro Manzano to get into position, where he was greeted by an uproar of applause.

Within the first minutes of their original song “Tonight,” Alejandro had classified the St. Louis crowd as a “rowdy bunch” and had stated that based on the crowd’s reaction, they would somehow find their

way back to the Gateway City. The “rowdy bunch” took great satisfaction in knowing they would see them again, but the band had only played one song so far. Were they ready for such a commitment? Definitely.

After the band’s brief introduction, they went straight for the kill with their cover of Adele’s “Rolling in the Deep” and the club anthem, Taio Cruz’s “Dynamite.” It is crazy what a nightclub

to the energy of the crowd. For Daniel, the song was never enough. Decked out in fire-engine-red skinny jeans, he was all over that stage and playing for his life, occasionally competing with the band’s drummer. If he could have done the splits in those jeans, he would have done that too - anything for the quality of the show. Meanwhile, Fabian decided to take the quiet but cool approach, acting as the band’s backbone.



Boyce Avenue. PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY SHUR

anthem can do to the average Midwesterner.

Breaking away from covers, the band hit the crowd with more originals such as “Briane,” the publicized “Find Me” and the heartfelt “Broken Angel.” But it was not until the lead singer decided to have a conversation with the audience about the importance of not settling that the crowd nearly swooned. He inquired about the relationship status in the room. Even the housewives felt single as he proceeded to play “On My Way” in a spotlight at his piano. All eyes were focused on the stage as the audience members wished they could be the subject of such a delicate song.

It was interesting to see how each brother reacted

As the show came to a close, the band said their goodbyes and walked offstage. Was that it? Only for a couple of fans, who rushed out to beat non-existent traffic on Delmar at 10 p.m. or catch the metrolink. True concert-goers know that, if you want an encore, you have to prove it. That is exactly what the “rowdy bunch” did. Boyce Avenue brought the heat with “Dare to Believe,” “Fix You” and “Hear Me Now.”

As fans poured out of the club, the young stayed behind, while the old had no choice but to return to the demands of a Tuesday morning at work.

LATEST + GREATEST

Movie Calendar

Movies opening Friday, March 23
(subject to change)

THE HUNGER GAMES (everywhere)
Suzanne Collins’ wildly popular teen fantasy novels arrive on the big screen. The novels are set in a world where two young people each from 12 districts are selected every year to fight to the death on live TV. A teen takes her younger sister’s place for the battle. Jennifer Lawrence (“Winter’s Bone”) stars with Liam Hemsworth, Josh Hutcherson and Stanley Tucci in this futuristic thriller directed by Gary Ross (“Seabiscuit,” “Big”).

SALMON FISHING IN YEMEN (everywhere)
Director Lasse Hallstrom (“Chocolat”) joins forces with screenwriter Simon Beaufoy (“Slumdog Millionaire”) for a warm, romantic British comedy about the unlikely idea of bringing fly fishing for salmon to the Middle Eastern nation of Yeman. Ewan MacGregor stars as a fisheries expert and avid fly fisherman hired for this magical feat, aided by Emily Blunt as public relations executive.

ADDICTION INCORPORATED (Tivoli only)
Part documentary, part biography, “Addiction Incorporated” tells the story of the tobacco industry’s efforts to hook smokers and the researcher-turned-whistleblower, Victor DeNoble, who brought the evidence to light. Directed by Charles Evans Jr. (producer on “The Aviator”).



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UMSL 2012 MAY Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 12	
MARK TWAIN BUILDING	
Each Ceremony will be approximately 1 1/2 hours in length. No tickets required.	
10 A.M.	- College of Nursing - College of Fine Arts & Communication - School of Social Work - Master of Public Policy Administration
2 P.M.	- College of Arts and Sciences
6 P.M.	- College of Optometry – <i>Touhill Performing Arts Center</i>

SUNDAY, MAY 13	
MARK TWAIN BUILDING	
2 P.M.	- College of Education - Bachelor of General Studies - Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
6 P.M.	- College of Business Administration - UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program - Missouri University S & T Engineering Education Center

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Visit the UMSL Commencement website at www.umsi.edu/commencement for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with *GradImages™*.

Radiohead surprises and surpasses expectations

ANGELA ACTON
Staff Writer

British 1990s alternative/ indie (but recently more electronic) band Radiohead performed in concert at the St. Louis Scott Trade Center for their “King of Limbs” tour, on Friday, March 9.

The venue, which is normally used for hockey games was sold out. It was expected to be, due to Radiohead’s massive popularity and the time between their shows in this area. The band has not played St. Louis since 2008. Since the band is from the early 1990s, fans always fear it is their last chance to see them live.

Radiohead’s set list included “Bloom,” “15 Step,” “Airbag,” “Little By Little,” “Morning Mr. Magpie,” “Myxomatosis” and “Kid A.” Tour debuts included “Videotape” and “Lucky.” The band seemed to keep away from their more well-known songs and focus more on their recent electronic endeavors.

Obviously, since it is their “King of Limbs” tour, it was expected that their new songs would be the main focus. It seems as if everyone in attendance had a favorite album. One could tell by the time placement of fans’ bathroom breaks.

Going in, this writer expected many songs from

“King of Limbs,” “Kid A” and “In Rainbow,” as well as more of the electronic spectrum of Radiohead songs. These expectations were met. Some of the band’s most popular songs, such as “Fake Plastic Trees,” “Creep,” “Blow Out,” “Inside My Head” and “High and Dry” were not played, which was whispered about in a surprised tone by many.

The main drummer, Phil Selway, was assisted by another drummer throughout the concert. The drummers were dealing with two of the most complex beats. Their ability to keep time in such complex songs as “15 Steps” was unmatched. This was better than having a DJ play in the back. For a brief moment they had an artist on the floor playing bongo drums.

The setup of the show was something one could not look away from. There were quite a few screens seemingly floating around the artist. The screens projected from a camera pointed at one of the artists or synced together to make an eye-catching pattern. In one of the last songs, the singer used a hand-held camera and put it close to his face so that his eye was projected out among all the screens. It was hypnotizing and went perfectly with the ambiance of

the song. Fans paid anywhere from \$50-\$100+ to see Thom Yorke, Jonny Greenwood, Ed O’Brien, Colin Greenwood and Phil Selway. It was one of their more expensive concerts, but the cost was justified because Radiohead puts on an electronic orchestra that cannot be soon forgotten.

In this writer’s opinion, the best song performed was “Lucky.” The band used red lighting along with the floating screens and some strobe effects. The energy of the crowd was unparalleled in that particular song.

There are always some complaints to be made about venues for these shows and all the traffic a show of this caliber creates, which was only exacerbated by the neighboring Peabody Opera House. The main complaint of the show, however, was its lack of well-known songs. But the set list was an expected disappointment, and a die-hard Radiohead fan would have known all of their new songs anyway and would have found the concert deeply enjoyable.

Grade: B+

Reps’ ‘Invisible Hand’ explores cultures in intelligent drama

CATE MARQUIS
A&E Editor

“The Invisible Hand” is an intelligent, engaging drama about cultures clashing and market forces. It is the current Studio production at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis. The play is being performed at the Loretto-Hilton Theater on the Webster University campus, 130 Edgar Road, runs through March 25.

The story is about an American investment banker held hostage by a small group of Islamic militants outside Karachi, Pakistan. Yet “The Invisible Hand” avoids all the stereotypes and expected discussions between a Western businessman and the Pakistani militant holding him hostage. The play is a smart, fast-paced drama that goes deeper into cultural misunderstandings and multinational business.

This performance was the world premiere of the play. Playwright Ayad Akhtar shows a mastery of the differences of world views and values between two cultures. The play’s title refers to the “invisible hand” of free market forces, a term coined by Adam Smith. While talk of investments and bankers may sound like a signal to nod off, nothing could be less true of this taut drama, which is actually riveting drama about people in a globalized world.

Nick (John Hickok) is an investment banker who is in Pakistan on assignment for his employer Citibank. The play opens after Nick has already been kidnapped and held for some time. His captors are anti-Western but not necessarily religious extremists. The small group holding him is asking for ransom, not retribution, but so far Nick’s employer has been unwilling to pay the \$3 million they are demanding.

Nick has been held long enough to develop a rapport with his guard Dar (Ahmed Hassan). When the more senior members of the group leave, Dar is more relaxed and friendly with Nick, who has been giving Dar advice on how to make some extra money for his family by buying and selling potatoes - essentially commodities trading.

When Nick’s cozy relationship with Dar is discovered, his guard is replaced by the London-raised Bashir (Bhavesh

the small cast is rounded out by Michael James Reed, who plays a double role as a masked Pakistani guard and later an American agent. The story is told through a series of short, dramatically-charged scenes, which keeps everything moving briskly. The play has no intermission, but the story takes place in two locations, providing a kind of dividing point. Scott C. Neale’s set is spare but flexible, serving multiple purposes.

Both Patel and John Hickok are excellent as

When Nick’s employer fails to pay the ransom, his captors hit on another idea and raise the ransom to \$10 million. The new plan is for Nick to make the money for them using money from his family as capital. This premise sets up a tense but close relationship between Nick and Bashir.

Patel), a sharper young man who is more familiar with Westerners. Nick, despite working in Pakistan, seems to understand the culture very little. He is slow even to pick up on Bashir’s British-accented English and his smattering of British slang, a clue that Bashir has a different experience with Western culture than the other captors.

When Nick’s employer fails to pay the ransom, his captors hit on another idea and raise the ransom to \$10 million. The new plan is for Nick to make the money for them using money from his family as capital. This premise sets up a tense but close relationship between Nick and Bashir.

Seth Gordon directs and

the young, quick-witted Bashir and the middle-aged, basically decent Nick. Nick is not trusted to touch the computer, so Bashir must handle the stock trades. A kind of student-teacher relationship develops as Bashir quickly learns the rules of investing. Nick is essentially a nice guy but, despite his brilliance as an investor, seems unable to fully grasp the cultural differences between himself and Bashir.

“The Invisible Hand” is a smart, gripping play, well worth the time and effort to see, as it is one of the year’s best so far. The theater offers student discounts and bargain-priced “rush” tickets.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012 - The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis' production of Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" at the Loretto-Hilton Center in St. Louis. PHOTO COURTESY OF JERRY NAUNHEIM JR.

'Comedy of Errors' at Rep Theatre



Yeonadoo Jung, Korean, born 1969; Location #4, 2006; chromogenic print; 48 x 60 1/2 inches; Courtesy Tina Kim Gallery and Kukje Gallery ©Yeonadoo Jung

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often ribald words.
This reviewer is not a fan of turning Shakespeare into musicals, but in this case the music seems to work. Familiar tunes, ranging from gospel to blues, include a hand-clapping “I’ll Fly Away,” a comic “House of the Rising Sun” and the classic “When the Saints Go Marching In” as the finale.
After the music sets a distinctly New Orleans tone, characters are introduced and an old stranger, Egeon (Lenny Wolpe), who describes how his identical twin infant sons, along with the identical twin baby boys acquired to be raised as their servants, were separated by a shipwreck. Mother and father are separated as well, with each parent in charge of one son-and-servant pair.
Years later, Antipholus of Syracuse (Chris Mixon) and his servant Dromio of Syracuse (Doug Scholz-Carlson) travel from their home country to Ephesus, a small town near New Orleans. Everyone seems to know them there, and strange things begin to happen.
The actors are all great and look as if they are having a splendid time. Tarah Flanagan is a charmer as Adriana, who is puzzled by the sudden strange behavior of her husband Antipholus of Ephesus (Michael Fitzpatrick). Kate Fonville is also good as Adriana’s unmarried sister Luciana, whose brother-in-law seems uncharacteristically attentive. Even Antipholus of Ephesus’ usually-reliable servant Dromio of Ephesus (Christopher Gerson) is acting strange.
The four actors playing the twins, interacting in various combinations, keep us laughing. The pairs of actors look alike, and the audience’s confusion is increased by the matching costumes of the pairs.
Other characters include a jeweler, Angelo (Jim Poulos), who has been commissioned for a gold chain by Adriana’s

husband; Angelo’s pursuing creditor (Ryan Fonville); a French-accented courtesan in harlequin pants (Shanara Gabrielle); a gospel-singing abbess (Tina Fabrique) and a witch doctor (Jerry Vogel) hired to cure the “delusional” husband. This group makes quite the New Orleans hurricane.
The play includes a very funny, clever bit in which master and servant are arguing and respond to abuse delivered to a hat as if they were being slapped or having their ears twisted. Another nice comic touch was replacing Adriana’s maid Luce with a couple of guys in white pants and peach-colored shirts, who engage in silly, swishy visual comedy. Evan Fuller is particularly good in a pantomime mimicry of his mistress’ emotional gesticulations.
Throughout, Mardi Gras revelers dance through the streets. Southern and New Orleans references are everywhere, from Scarlett O’Hara to Blanche DuBois to Elvis. The play even features a New Orleans funeral. Toward the end there is a feeling of throwing in more references than the audience can keep straight, but that somehow fits the play.
Erik Paulson’s set is simply fabulous. It includes a street set with intersecting avenues, distant side streets and multi-story storefronts with fancy ironwork balconies. Director Paul Mason Barnes puts all this to good use, even having actors scaling up the ironwork or peeking through slat doors, as well as slamming them.
The Rep’s “Comedy of Errors” is pure fun, a delightful way to end its season. The comedy runs through April 8 at the Loretto-Hilton Theater on the Webster University campus, 130 Edgar Road.

Grade: B+

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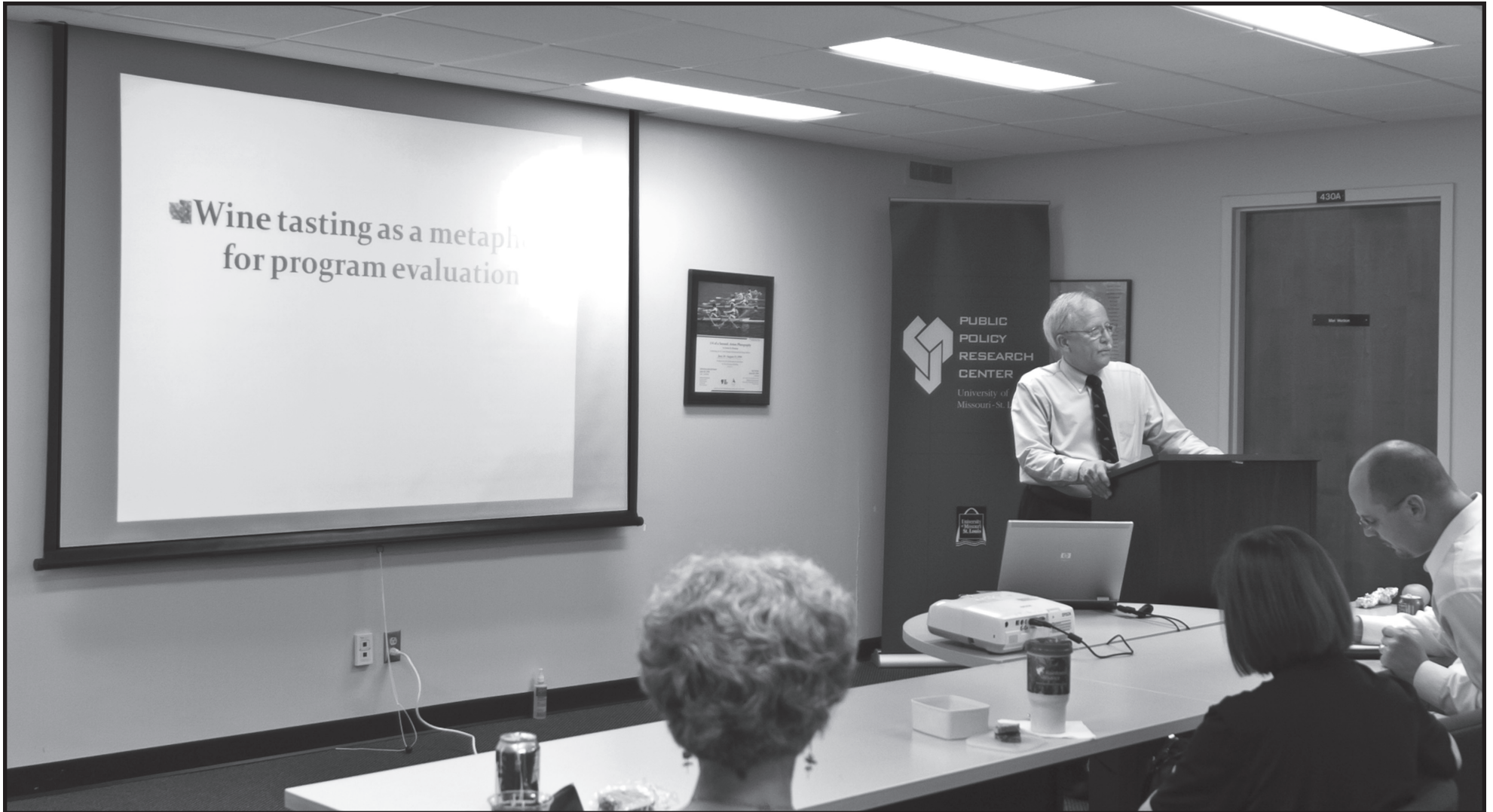
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Features



Dr. Mark Tranel, Director of Public Policy Research Center, presented his topic on Program Evaluation through the analogy of picking wine.

ISMAIL ADIPUTRA / THE CURRENT

Complexity of program evaluation compared to fine wine

ANDREW MILLS

Staff Writer

On Wednesday, March 14, Dr. Mark Tranel, director of the Public Policy Research Center at the University of Missouri - St. Louis, presented an applied research seminar titled "Picking Fine Wine and Program Evaluation: So What is the Difference?" The seminar was the third in a series of applied research presentations held by the Public Policy Research Center and the School of Social Work at UMSL.

Judging the merits of wine is more complex than simply deciding whether it pleases the palate. Evaluating wine requires connoisseurs to judge it by such specific criteria as cost, smell and alcohol content. In this way judging wine can be a metaphor for evaluating the merits of public programs.

In the debate over experimental and quasi-experimental methodologies, the struggle to clearly define proper criteria for judging these programs is challenging due to their complex natures. Another issue is the fact that no single method of judging a program can be used as a one-size-fits-all approach, because each program is highly individual in focus and approach, often having results that are not quantifiable.

Until recently many programs did not undergo proper evaluations, and the evaluations that did take place served little function. This was problematic because many programs that were great in theory did not produce significant results, resulting in a waste of resources that

could otherwise have been funneled toward programs that are producing positive results.

Evaluators face the problem of developing the criteria to properly and fairly judge whether or not a program is producing significant results. This is not always measurable, especially when results are measured over long periods of time.

Dr. Tranel's presentation covered the finer points of program evaluation and its evolution over the years as programs, especially those in the fields of social work and the arts, become increasingly complex and individualized.

The evaluators of these programs go through a very rigorous process to develop criteria for judging the method,

value and use of these programs. For example, in the field of arts, how would one judge whether or not the presence of an art museum has a positive influence on a city, and how would one prove this in measurable terms? In most cases, funding for these programs relies on the measurement of something that is nearly impossible to quantify.

Most evaluations go through a process that begins with a corroboration to collect as many types of data as possible. Once an evaluator finishes their assessment, there has to be a consensual validation or agreement on findings from other evaluators. Then the evaluation undergoes referential criticism, being critiqued and thoroughly examined to make sure nothing was overlooked.

Tranel stated that if anything was learned from his presentation on the complexities and challenges of program evaluation, it would be "an awareness and appreciation for the challenging and persistent efforts evaluators are faced with under such complex circumstances."

Listeners such as Vicki Jacobson, Master of Education and director of Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling, felt that Tranel's presentation was both "challenging" and "important." "This presentation has opened me to other options and by understanding the process of evaluation, I can now make or add more value to my own proposals," Jacobson said.

Dr. Jay Rounds, E.

Desmond Lee-awarded professor of museum studies, Department of Anthropology, UMSL, was glad he took the time out of his day for Tranel's presentation. "As someone who is regularly faced with pressure to produce quantifiable results from my programs, I now better understand why this unfair pressure exists on social outcomes. This understanding will help," Rounds said.

To complete the metaphor, both wine and program evaluation should have a balancing methodology for judging.

For those who missed Tranel's presentation and are interested in future presentations, more information can be found at pprc.ums.edu.

Royally Genderf**ked screening in MSC's Pilot House

ANGELA ACTON

Staff Writer

"Royally Genderf**ked: Drag Culture in St. Louis" is a documentary that was released in May 2010 by Webster University students Miya Norfleet-Aiken and Sarah Williams. The documentary depicts the lives of six drag queens and kings: Cyller, Demi Moore Cox, Siren, Sum Yung Wang, Suzy Cydal and Wolfe. The discussions that surrounded the event involved not only the drag community but the gay community by which it is encompassed, its appeal to the straight community, gender roles and stereotypes. The viewing of this documentary took place in the Pilot House at the Univer-

sity of Missouri -- St. Louis on Monday, March 12.

Norfleet-Aiken and Williams' original intent was to make a ten-minute documentary for one of their classes at Webster. They chose the subject of drag. They received so much interesting information, though, that they could not stop adding to what is now a 36-minute documentary.

Most of the performers in the documentary attended the screening at UMSL and even did a question-and-answer session after it was over. They gave the crowd suggestions about how to disguise oneself as as the other gender, us-

ing many methods such as duct-taping skin back, layering tank tops, using compression vests and "stuffing" with different objects.

Cyller had one of the most important tips. "Have a ball. Have a blast. Get out there and work your shit," she said. Although the documentary was made two years ago, all of the speakers are still currently participating in drag. Siren, who had a big part in Glitterbomb at the Complex, is even trying out for RuPaul's drag show this year.

Bystanders who happened to be in the Pilot House as the event began seemed thrown off by the

images on the projector, but many ended up sitting down to watch. Others came specifically for the show for many different reasons:

"I came [to college] from a very rural town, and there are not very many people who identify as gay or lesbian or any of that. So this really gives me insight on their lifestyle and how they feel. I do not believe I should be judging anybody... because that is the way they were born. I think this [event] will give me a lot of insight," Megean Hubbartt, senior, English, said.

"My best friend is one of the filmmakers, so Dr. Kathleen Nigro, assistant

teaching professor and program advisor for the gender studies program, and I kind of set this up to happen. It occurs with women's history month because part of women's history month is gender, obviously," Mandi Kowalski, senior, sociology, said.

"What impressed me the most was the sense of belonging to a strong community that was shared among the presenters and also the creative sense; the movie captured those feelings well. I also feel that our new technologies have expanded the ways in which we can share information and hopefully change the world to be a more inclu-

sive place," Nigro said.

"Being a male impersonator in the St. Louis scene is by far the biggest honor I have ever had. We have some of the most talented and fun entertainers I have had the pleasure of working with. Learning from each other is the key to being a successful entertainer. We lean on each other for support and encouragement. I am truly blessed to be part of this drag family and community!" Jill "Cyller" Pisarek said.

Siren ended the screening with a quote from RuPaul: "We all came into this world naked. The rest is all drag."

Philosophy department's Big Questions Series forum welcomes UMSL community to discuss comedy ethics

DAVID VON NORDHEIM

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 13, the Philosophy department held the latest session of its Big Questions Series, a discussion forum open to the University of Missouri- St. Louis community and students with any major that casually explores a variety of philosophical and relevant topics, this week focusing on comedy. Kevin Lepore, graduate, philosophy hosted the March 2012 forum titled "Can Comedy Cross the Line?" which was designed to explore the three way relationship between humor, the audience of humor and morality.

"A Muslim, a social-ist and an illegal immigrant walk into a bar, and the bartender says, 'What can I get you, Mr. Presi-

dent?'" Lepore said. "It is a joke, right? I opened with that joke to start a discussion about what humor is, whether or not that joke offends you, is immoral in some way... You could ask what makes that joke funny, what does not make it funny? Is there a topic that can never be funny, so can we never joke about politics or about sexism or violence or other things that might be unpleasant? What purpose does this joke serve?"

The attendees of the forum laughed mildly at Lepore's initial joke, which launched a discussion of the intent of humor. "What role does the comedian play in the production of humor, and what role does the audience play in the pro-

duction of humor?" Lepore said. The audience suggested that the intent of humor is important when judging whether or not a joke can be funny rather than offensive. Lepore said that his political joke probably seemed different coming from him as a person who does not actually believe those things about President Obama than if it had come from someone who did believe them. Lepore's joke was not intended to insult or harm, so it seemed less offensive than a joke would if it had ill intent.

"I am wondering if there are some offensive jokes that are offensive because they actually say something about the world, like maybe a fact or a social condi-

tion about the world, and the realization of that fact, when a person is confronted with it, if that is what impacts you," Bre Anna Liddell, graduate, philosophy, said. She told an anecdotal racist joke that she had overheard through the grapevine to illustrate this idea, "My father told me that there are three things I'd better never do and never bring home. One of them was I'd better never become a Democrat... I'd better go to college... and my father told me never to bring home a black girl..." she said. This illustrated a joke that likely had no ill intent, because there was no indication that the speaker agreed with his father, but still crossed the

line and was more offensive than funny. It also illustrated the relationship between the audience and comedy. The question was raised that, perhaps that anecdote would have been funny if it had remained private to its intended audience, and became offensive only when it was accidentally overheard.

Lepore framed the discussion with a handout that outlined three theories of humor. The Benign Violation Theory of humor stipulates that humor occurs when something threatens one's sense of how the world "ought to be," the threat seems benign, and a person can see both interpretations at the same time. The Incongruity Theory of humor stipulates that

humor is perceived at the moment of realization of incongruity between a concept involved in a certain situation and the real objects thought to be in some relation to the concept. The Superiority Theory of humor says that a person finds humor in the misfortunes of others, because the misfortunes of others illustrate the person's superiority over the misfortunate.

Lepore believes that discussing humor is important because it is something that we all can engage in. The Big Questions Series will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of every month. Next month's topic will be "Why Eat Meat?"

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Sports



Brett Wolf, junior, liberal studies, delivers the pitch last Sunday vs. Wisconsin-Parkside.

ERICA THOMPSON / THE CURRENT

Tritons win in Florida, proceed to lose conference opener

LEON DEVANCE
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri - St. Louis Tritons' baseball team is in the middle of an 11-game road trip that may give them a chance to gain an edge against some of their conference foes. In their first foray into the conference season, however, the Tritons fell into a 0-2 hole when they opened the Great Lakes Valley Conference season against Kentucky Wesleyan. They dropped a double-header, losing the first game 10-4 and the nightcap 5-4.

Adam Radick, senior, communications, suffered his first loss of the season when he allowed 10 runs and 17 hits in the opener. Radick recorded seven strikeouts and

walked one batter. Tomas Duffek, senior, history, took the loss in the second game, striking out four batters and surrendering two walks.

The double-header sweep lowered the Tritons' overall record to 6-6 (0-2 in the conference), while Kentucky Wesleyan raised their overall record to 6-6 (2-0 in the GLVC).

The Panthers jumped on the Tritons for a 5-0 lead in the fourth inning as they pounded out seven hits to score five runs. The Tritons responded with two runs in the fifth inning and two more runs in the sixth. Then the Panthers put the game away with another five-run

frame in the sixth inning.

Center fielder Luke Matecki, junior, business, stroked three hits. Left fielder Drew Standefer, junior, nursing, and catcher Paul Richmond, sophomore, media studies, had two hits. Matecki and Charlie Mohr, junior, undecided, collected RBI singles in the fifth inning. Nolan Craig, junior, finance, delivered an RBI double.

In the nightcap, the Tritons scored two runs in the first inning and another two runs in the second inning to grab an early 4-0 advantage. Trevor Nathanson, junior, business administration, blasted a two-run homer.

Two errors by the Pan-

thers provided two more runs for the Tritons. Matecki delivered an RBI single and second baseman/outfielder Justin Lois, junior, business marketing, added an RBI single after reaching on an error. Unfortunately, Duffek could not hold onto the lead and allowed the Panthers to rally for five runs.

The Tritons concluded the six-game Florida portion of the trip with a 4-2 record, sweeping Alderson - Broaddus in the RussMatt invitational. Rain suspended the first game in the ninth inning with the score tied 1-1. When play resumed the Tritons secured a 4-2 win. Matecki drove in the winning

run with an RBI single, and Craig provided the insurance runs with a two-run double.

The Tritons then secured a 5-1 victory in the regularly scheduled game when Jeremy Butler, senior, business, allowed three hits and struck out nine batters. Butler allowed a solo home run in the first inning, then pitched eight scoreless innings. Joe Wieczkowski, sophomore, undecided, provided the offense for the Tritons, collecting a single, a double and three RBIs.

The Tritons began the road trip with four errors that cost them a game against Notre Dame College. Third baseman Mohr finished the

game with a three-hit performance, collecting three extra base hits, two doubles, a triple and two runs.

The Tritons then lost to Minnesota - Crookston, but rallied for a 3-2 win. Austin Schuler, media studies, allowed three runs on five hits and an error on Nathanson.

The Tritons then swept Lock Haven 4-2, rallying from a two-run deficit and scoring four runs on two hits in the top of the sixth. The Tritons then won the nightcap 6-3.

The road trip concludes in Warrensburg on Wednesday, March 21. The next home game is a double-header against Northern Kentucky on Saturday, March 24.

Women's tennis team eyes GLVC tournament, prepares for challenges as championship season appears on horizon

MATT SALMI
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri - St. Louis women's tennis team resumed the 2011-2012 season March 2-3 at the Principia Tournament in Elsay, Illinois, entering the spring portion of their schedule.

"Our high goal is to make the conference championship. It's not unrealistic. The skill set is there. Whether the mentality is there, the confidence is there, time will tell," Coach Rick Gyllenberg, UMSL, said.

The Principia Tournament was the first official test for the women since the fall split of their season. UMSL defeated Principia 8-1 and Missouri Baptist 9-0. Gyllenberg and assistant coach Diego Abreu were aware of an advantage in skill but wanted focus and

intensity in matches that did not directly challenge the team's mental fortitude.

Louisa Werner, sophomore, business administration, earned Great Lakes Valley Conference Player of the Week for her tournament play. She aspires to be the GLVC Player of the Year. "Power, speed, touch – she has all the skills. She can play from the baseline or at the net," Gyllenberg said.

The home opener was scheduled for March 7, when Ferris State visited. However, by 6:30 p.m. darkness had reduced visibility significantly, so the coaches of both teams agreed to discontinue the regional match. This had no influence on the GLVC tournament.

On March 13, the team

faced off against Lindenwood - Belleville in Belleville, Illinois. While the UMSL women won the match 6-3, Gyllenberg again left looking for greater intensity and aggressiveness, particularly at the net in doubles play.

The coaches have attempted to develop this intensity through internal competition in practice. "One of the hardest parts of coaching is trying to motivate [players] to try to compete to get better every day even though you know the tendencies of the person hitting against you," Gyllenberg said.

The match at home versus Southeast Missouri State on Wednesday, March 14, ended in disappointment when the Tritons lost 4-5. "Our doubles play was not

very good. The energy level and the effort level were very sub-par on Wednesday," said Gyllenberg.

Though the women's performance improved during singles play, the gap proved to be more than they could overcome. "Eighty percent of this game, when the skill is somewhat equal, is mental," Gyllenberg said.

While stressing the mental nuances of tennis, the coaches also utilized the four months without a match to improve physically. "With the addition of my assistant coach this year, we have more help and expertise in the strength and conditioning area, so we think the girls are a little stronger, faster and quicker than they were," Gyllenberg said.

Before the Principia Tour-

namment, the team had not played a match since October 8, when they defeated South Dakota State 8-2 at the Western Illinois Tournament in Macomb, Illinois.

Gyllenberg was pleased with the non-championship season. "Werner did especially well. Our one and only freshmen, Lianne Cantalupo – we were very impressed and happy with her," Gyllenberg said.

The team has been preparing for conference play. In conferences the matches affect post-season play while establishing physical and mental mettle. "We're really starting to play enough matches that we should be figuring out who we are, how good we are and our lineups," Gyllenberg said.

"We're not playing our

best tennis now, but I would rather be playing our best tennis when the conference matches start near the end of this month than playing great now and being burnt out or falling apart," said Gyllenberg.

In his sixteenth season at UMSL, Gyllenberg hopes the team's three seniors – Pujitha Bandi, international business administration, Leticia Garcia, information systems and Katie Rykiewicz, anthropology – have no regrets. "They have all had great careers. I hope it ends on a high note for them," Gyllenberg said.

Drury University will host the GLVC Tournament in Springfield, Missouri April 20-21.

Coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor sees progress; looks forward to future seasons for further accomplishments, growth

LEON DEVANCE
Staff Writer

Despite a 10-17 record and first-round exit from the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament, University of Missouri - St. Louis women's basketball coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor still sees the 2011-12 basketball season as a success.

Curliss-Taylor sometimes thought she was playing at a disadvantage with injuries and inconsistent play making the Tritons' rotation a scramble this season. Samantha Swarts, freshman, criminology, tore an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) before the season began. Nomeka Holder, senior, sociology, spent a great deal of time out with a foot injury before reappearing late

in the season. Forward Kiki Robinson, senior, criminal justice, played on one leg with an injured knee that will require surgery. And a stress fracture injury to guard Molly Barnes, junior, educational studies, lost the Tritons one of their best defenders.

The injuries led to constant roster shuffling. However, Curliss-Taylor said that the Tritons played with heart and determination. "The year did not go as well as planned. I believed that we would have a better record and go deeper in the tournament. It was a tough season. The odds were against us, the injuries hurt the rota-

tion," Curliss-Taylor said.

The season ended for the Tritons with a loss to St. Mary's in the first round of the GLVC tournament championship. The loss to St. Mary's meant that this was the last game for Robinson, Holder, career 3-point leader Caitlyn Moody, senior, physical education, Kelly Carter, senior, elementary education, and Shayelle Dominguez, senior, business marketing. All of these players will be graduating after this year.

Curliss-Taylor expects returning players Barnes, Smith, Swarts, Alexis Lawrence, freshmen, undecided, Angie Johnson, junior, criminal justice,

Phoebe Robertson, sophomore, elementary education, Emily Brumitt, junior, nursing, Kelsey Sikes, freshman, business, and Deaven Omohundro, junior, elementary education, to form a strong nucleus next season for the Tritons.

"Phoebe Robertson's work ethic...makes her one of the best players [on the team]. She is a good defender and is a strong player in that she can drive [to the hole] or hit a three. Angie Johnson, who played at Jefferson Junior College, is a fast shooting guard and our best defender. I am expecting Alexis Lawrence to step up. Alexis played good minutes and is an excel-

lent ball handler, with the lateral speed and intensity to pick up her man. And Samantha Swarts is looking good after her rehab," Curliss-Taylor said.

Next year the Tritons hope to have better health on their side. The team also expects to replace the graduating seniors with new players, including center Logan Sims, a big body player from Detroit. Sims' high school is competing for the state championship. Morgan Settle, is a top 60 player from Indianapolis who can take the small or power forward positions. Jazmine Smith, an athletic point guard, comes from a top high school in In-

dianapolis. Shooting guard Kelly Kunkel, who is from Franklin County in Indiana, is expected to create match-up problems that the Tritons hope to exploit.

Curliss-Taylor said she is always looking for players who want to put the time in to improve. "The number one thing is that you are looking for players who have heart and want to play. Then add confidence. How good do you think you are? And are you willing to work on your game? That is where the dedication [to improve comes in]," Curliss-Taylor said.

Point/Counterpoint



Should there be term limits for members of Congress?

Limiting congressional terms would be a mistake

For more than two centuries, the United States of America has prospered without imposing term limits on Congress. Why fix what isn't broken? Imposing term limits would eliminate quality leaders who have proven their ability to provide quality results and excellent representation. If we limited their terms, we would be losing leaders that would bring their experience and contacts with them, slowing down progress. Also, by imposing term limits we would be removing one major incentive for a politician: the desire to be re-elected for future terms.

Many argue that Congress is merely a political machine driven by lobbyists and big-money campaign contributors. Although in many cases this may be true, many of our longest-serving and most experienced leaders have shown resilience to manipulation by lobbyists and other similar organizations that are not motivated by our best interests. Those politicians who do allow themselves to be manipulated or driven by these third parties tend to fall out of favor rather quickly and are not often re-elected. It is our duty and our right as voters to elect leaders who represent and act in our best interests.

As with any other job, there is a learning curve for members of Congress. Even flipping burgers at the local fast food joint requires a few mistakes before workers become proficient. Political offices are no different. Imposing term limits would ensure that our Congress is run purely by inexperienced leaders struggling to overcome all the challenges of a newly-acquired office. Then, just when they begin to have everything figured out and can truly represent their voters, it would be time for them to move on.

Term limits can be problematic for legislation as well. Legislation that is in our best interests often takes longest to pass due to the close examination and constant revision to which a bill may be subject. When a member of Congress attempts to pass a bill on behalf of voters, it becomes a lengthy and arduous project requiring time, experience and a support network that often requires more than one term to complete. By setting term limits we will be limiting the amount of long-term and important proposed legislation in favor of short-term proposals that lack substance and value, because anything important would take too long and

would most likely be thrown out before the end of a Congress member's term. It would be a waste of time, money and effort. The big changes that are necessary to the survival of today's economy and the maintenance of our standards of living would not occur.

The current lack of term limits provides an incentive for quality job performance and is necessary because without this incentive politicians in their last term of office are more likely to ignore the desires of their voters. They will not have to face the wrath of the voters in the future. Examples of this may be seen in other offices that do have term limits at the state level. One of the most common examples is the passing of unfavorable laws or the pardon of undeserving criminals as final acts before leaving office.

To impose limits on Congress is to disregard the wisdom and foresight of the forefathers of this country, which have made the United States of America both prosperous and a world power. Just as importantly, to say term limits should be imposed on Congress is to say that voters are incapable of re-electing quality leaders and are not intelligent enough to tell the difference between a leader and a puppet.

Term limits would help open doors for new possibilities

Fresh ideas, new perspectives and limited terms are what the people of the United States are asking for. With a new election year underway and the unsure economy that we are living in today, American citizens are looking for new options when it comes to gaining a more understanding government that will keep their interests in mind and truly speak for them. Term limits have become the new movement of the American people. They want to give members in office a restricted limit to the number of times they are allowed to hold a particular office and the length of time they are allowed to hold that office.

Term limits are nothing new to the American government. George Washington first brought up the policy because he refused to be elected for a third term. The same thing later happened with Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was then that the House of Congress voted for an amendment which restricted presidents to only two terms of four years each. When you take into consideration that our Founding Fathers never meant for these positions to become full-time careers, term limits make even more sense. Serv-

ing in Congress was originally supposed to be a volunteer position. Retiring gave the official a better opportunity to stay at home with his family.

One major benefit of imposing a limit on a politician's time in office is to stop the spread of corruption in Congressional officials. Duncan Quirk, who spoke to Huffington Post about the issue, stated that it would be hugely beneficial to the American people if term limits became imposed. Introducing a limit of three terms for representatives and two terms for senators could be useful in preventing the kind of corruption that breeds when someone is in a position of power and remains there, unchallenged, for a long period of time. It would also curb the likelihood of those in Congress having the opportunity to spread wealth and power only among their friends and family. If there was a limit to how long Congress members could serve, there would be less time for officials to adopt unsavory habits in how they operate.

Introducing new members into Congress on a regular basis would also be a way to make sure that the voices of American citizens are being heard by new officials. Making

sure that Congress is regularly filled with new faces ensures a greater likelihood of electing those who are more open to new ideas and the shifting interests of the American public.

The new generation of students graduating from universities across the country is quickly becoming more and more involved in the representation of their government, especially when it comes to benefiting future generations. This would allow for the possibility of a citizen-built government, which would eventually drive out career politicians who may have lost sight of the will of the people over the years.

The reason American people should get involved is that the creation of a Terms Limit Act would help encourage lower tax rates for middle-income families, increase the chances of a smaller government and promote greater participation in voting for both older and younger generations. If the 22nd Amendment can be used to limit the number of terms for the President of the United States, then why can't there be a limit on those who actually get the bills, amendments and acts passed? Getting involved in benefiting future generations starts with making changes today.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Greet spring with a trip to Missouri Botanical Garden

Is there a better way to greet spring than with a trip to the blooming Missouri Botanical Garden?

If you have never visited the lush paradise that your grandparents called Shaw's Garden, this is the season to do it. Daffodils, crocuses and magnolias are all in bloom, and more flowers are ready to pop up, such as the tulips, azaleas and irises. Dogwoods and red buds are ready to bloom and the camellias are already blooming in the historic Linnean House.

The Garden also offers a number of additional reasons to visit this time of year, in the form of festivals and special events.

One of the upcoming events has special meaning for this campus: the 2012 Jane and Whitney Harris Lecture, the annual multi-media presentation on conservation, wildlife and the natural world offered by the Whitney Harris World Ecology Center. The World Ecology Center is a collaborative effort of the University of St. Louis Department of Biology, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Zoo.

This year's speaker is Dr. Peter Kareiva, chief scientist at the Nature Conservancy. His talk, titled "Towards a new conservation: Strange bedfellows, broadening the constituency, and rejecting false metaphors," takes place on Tuesday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Garden's

Shoenberg Auditorium in the Ridgeway Center. The Ridgeway Center is the main building used to enter the Missouri Botanical Garden at 4344 Shaw Boulevard.

The annual Harris event is always visual and fascinating, bringing some of the world's top figures in conservation to St. Louis. While these speakers are top scientists and leaders in their field, one does not have to be a botanist or conservation biologist to follow along. The lectures are intelligent but geared to a general college audience with a terrific slide show and often with a touch of adventure. The event is free.

This year's speaker, Kareiva, joined the Nature Conservancy after a long academic career that included work at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Kareiva, who is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, now works on issues of bio-diversity and human land use in the face of global climate change. Marine conservation is a special interest for this scientist. He is also the author of the text book "Conservation Science: Balancing the Needs of People and Nature."

This fascinating presentation might be a pleasant and quick way to catch up on some of what is going on in the effort to hang on to our natural world and find a way for us to harmoniously adapt to a changing world. Our recent extremely mild winter,



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the fourth mildest winter on record, and our present early spring are harbingers of the change to come.

Although this event takes place in the evening, after the garden is closed, there is nothing to prevent one from spending the day at the garden first. A stroll around the garden's 79 acres on a sunny day is always nice. But there are more events at the Garden this spring.

The Orchid Show will continue through March 25. The theme this year is Chinese, with a variety of orchids presented in tropical landscapes inspired by China.

Keeping with the Chinese theme of the Orchid Show, the next event up is the Lantern Festival. Opening May 26, the much-loved event offers a combination of art and performances highlighting Chinese traditions and culture. May is also the start of the Whitaker Music Festival, with free concerts in the garden.

Cate Marquis is the A&E Editor and a columnist for The Current.

MAD WORLD

Women still must fight for basic health care coverage

Birth control coverage. Heated debates over abortion rights. It has been dubbed by the media as "The War on Women," and it does indeed seem as if women's health care has come under fire from all sides. In a show of unity, eight female state senators in Georgia walked out of Senate chambers to protest bills that would hinder access to abortions and contraceptives. Perhaps they are as disbelieving as many of us that in this day and age, such basic rights for women are still up for debate.

Those who need government assistance to support their children are viewed as leeches on the state. Yet nine months before their babies are born and even prior to their conception, women are denied easy access to affordable birth control, which would prevent an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy. Getting the Plan B pill, which can prevent an unwanted pregnancy, can involve jumping through hoops depending on where you live. Gaining access to abortion services is hell in a lot of states.

So what would people who oppose things like easy-access birth control and abortion have women do? They don't want to help support the children by funding and supporting government assistance programs, but they also don't want to give women easy access to birth control or abortions to reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies in the process. Women can't win for losing.

The loudest voices in the debate tend to come from older white men in positions of power – not exactly a demographic known for caring about the rights of women (especially those with lower incomes). The fact that the nuances of women's health care coverage is being decided upon primarily by men is disturbing, to say the least. The fact that these same men seem uninterested in learning the actual facts concerning contraception is even more disheartening.

If you're in the position of actually making decisions about medical care for women, it might make sense to have more factual information on the subject than an eighth-grader from one of those states where sex education is outlawed. While it can be amusing in a sad, slightly hysterical, "is-this-really-happening" sort of way, mostly it's just depressing.

"Women who want birth control covered by their insurance can't even afford enough contraception for all the sex they are having," to paraphrase Rush Limbaugh in a comment that made little sense to anyone who knows the slightest thing about how birth control actually works.

It is 2012. We are so advanced that we should have flying cars and jet packs by now. Yet women are still having to fight for the right to control their own bodies, make their own decisions and live their own lives without the intru-



Sharon Pruitt

sion of strange men they have never met but who nevertheless feel very strongly about what goes on in their uteri.

The government has no place imposing personal or religious beliefs on a person's life or body. Regardless of how anyone personally feels about abortion, is that really a decision the government should be given the power to make for any citizen? This could set a dangerous precedent of governmental control over our lives that, sadly, many people probably won't give much thought to until it starts to affect everyone.

In this day and age, women should not have to fight so hard for what amounts to basic health care. It is an election year, however; perhaps it's better to get up in arms over something as small as health insurance companies covering women's health than to have to talk about things like unemployment and the growing discontent of many American citizens.

Sharon Pruitt is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

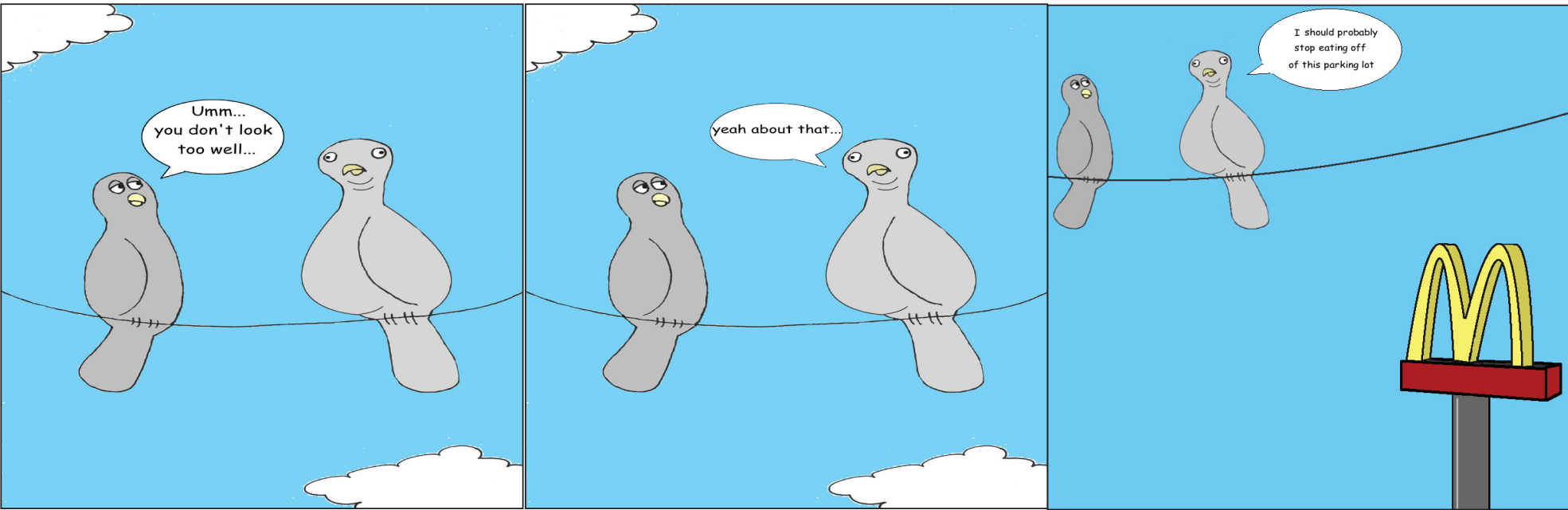
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